

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An integrated information management apparatus, comprising:

data base storing means for storing a first data base at the integrated information management apparatus;

consistency maintaining means for performing consistency maintaining processes by replacing data of said first data base with data of a second data base different from said first data base; and

data determining means for designating as data of which consistency is to be maintained between said first and second data bases, data included in said first data base and having modification time newer than the time of the last consistency maintaining process, based on consistency maintaining process time information representing time when the last consistency maintaining process was performed, and based on data modification time information corresponding to each data included in said first data base and representing time when each said data is modified.

2. (Currently Amended) The integrated information management apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising

time information storing means for storing said consistency maintaining process time information.

3. (Currently Amended) The integrated information management apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising

time information obtaining means for obtaining said consistency maintaining process time information from another information management apparatus storing said second data base.

4. (Currently Amended) The integrated information management apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising

data transmitting means connected to said data determining means for transmitting said data to another information management apparatus storing said second data base.

5. (Currently Amended) The integrated information management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said consistency maintaining means includes

means for receiving data transmitted as the data of which consistency is maintained from another information management apparatus storing said second data base, and

means for replacing data corresponding to said received data included in said first data base with said received data.

6. (Currently Amended) The integrated information management apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising

data base designating means for designating, among a plurality of stored data bases, said first data base as an object of the consistency maintaining process.

7. (Currently Amended) A recording medium recording a program for implementing a method of performing consistency maintaining processes using a computer, wherein said method comprises:

~~the step of storing a first data base~~ at an integrated information management apparatus;

~~the step of performing consistency maintaining processes,~~ by replacing data of said first data base with data of a second data base different from said first data base; and

~~the step of designating as data of which consistency is to be~~ maintained between said first and second data bases, data included in said first data base and having modification time newer than the time of the last consistency maintaining process, based on consistency maintaining process time information representing time when the last consistency maintaining process was performed, and based on data modification time information corresponding to each data included in said first data base and representing time when each said data is modified.

8. (Currently Amended) An integrated information management apparatus, comprising:

data base storing means for storing a first data base at the integrated information management apparatus;

consistency maintaining means for performing consistency maintaining processes among said first data base and two or more data bases different from said first data base, by replacing data of said first data base with data of said two or more data bases;

data determining means for designating as data of which consistency is to be maintained among said first data base and said two or more data bases, data included in said first data base and having modification time newer than the time of the last consistency maintaining process, based on consistency maintaining process time information representing time when the last consistency maintaining process was performed, and based on data modification time information corresponding to each data included in said first data base and representing time when each said data is modified; and

data base determining means for determining an order of said two or more data bases as the object with which consistency of the designated data is to be maintained, in accordance with a predetermined priority.

9. (Currently Amended) The integrated information management apparatus according to claim 8, wherein

said data base determining means includes means for determining order of said two or more data bases as the object of maintaining consistency of said determined data, in accordance with priority represented as an order of time starting from older or newer one, of said consistency maintaining process, represented by said consistency maintaining process time information.

10. (Currently Amended) The integrated information management apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising

priority storing means for storing said priority; wherein

said data base determining means includes means for determining the order of said two or more data bases as an object with which consistency of said determined data is to be maintained, in accordance with the priority stored in said priority storing means.

11. (Currently Amended) The integrated information management apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

communication means for communicating with apparatuses respectively storing said two or more data bases; and

time point storing means for storing a time point at which communication by said communication means becomes possible; wherein

said data base determining means includes means for determining an order of said two or more data bases as the object with which consistency of said determined data is to be maintained, in accordance with the time point stored in said time point storing means.

12. (Currently Amended) The integrated information management apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising

holding means for holding, while communicating with a first apparatus among said two or more apparatuses, a state in which communication with a second apparatus other than said first apparatus among said two or more apparatuses is possible.

13. (Currently Amended) A recording medium recording a program for implementing a method of performing consistency maintaining processes using a computer, wherein said method comprises:

~~the step of storing a first data base~~ at an integrated information management apparatus;

~~the step of performing consistency maintaining processes among~~
said first data base and two or more data bases different from said first data base, by replacing data of said first data base with data of said two or more data bases;

~~the step of~~ designating as data of which consistency is to be maintained among said first data base and said two or more data bases, data included in said first data base and having modification time newer than the time of the last consistency maintaining process, based on consistency maintaining process time information representing time when the last consistency maintaining process was performed, and based on data modification time information corresponding to each data included in said first data base and representing time when each said data is modified; and

~~the step of~~ determining an order of said two or more data bases as the object with which consistency of the designated data is to be maintained, in accordance with a predetermined priority.

14. (New) An integrated information management apparatus, comprising:

a storage for storing a first data base at the integrated information management apparatus;

a consistency maintaining module for performing consistency maintaining processes by replacing data of said first data base with data of a second data base different from said first data base; and

a data determining module for designating as data of which consistency is to be maintained between said first and second data bases, data included in said first data base and having

modification time newer than the time of the last consistency maintaining process, based on consistency maintaining process time information representing time when the last consistency maintaining process was performed, and based on data modification time information corresponding to each data included in said first data base and representing time when each said data is modified.

15. (New) The integrated information management apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising

a time information storage for storing said consistency maintaining process time information.

16. (New) The integrated information management apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising

a time information obtaining module for obtaining said consistency maintaining process time information from another information management apparatus storing said second data base.

17. (New) The integrated information management apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising

a data transmitter connected to said data determining module for transmitting said data to another information management apparatus storing said second data base.

18. (New) The integrated information management apparatus according to claim 14, wherein

said consistency maintaining module includes

a receiver receiving data transmitted as the data of which consistency is maintained from another information management apparatus storing said second data base, and

a data replacement module for replacing data corresponding to said received data included in said first data base with said received data.

19. (New) The integrated information management apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising

a data base designator module for designating, among a plurality of stored data bases, said first data base as an object of the consistency maintaining process.

20. (New) An integrated information management apparatus, comprising:

a storage for storing a first data base at the integrated information management apparatus;

a consistency maintaining module for performing consistency maintaining processes among said first data base and two or more data bases different from said first data base, by replacing data of said first data base with data of said two or more data bases;

a data determining module for designating as data of which consistency is to be maintained among said first data base and said two or more data bases, data included in said first data base and having modification time newer than the time of the last consistency maintaining process, based on consistency maintaining process time information representing time when the last consistency maintaining process was performed, and based on data modification time information corresponding to each data included in said first data base and representing time when each said data is modified; and

a data base determining module for determining an order of said two or more data bases as the object with which consistency of the designated data is to be maintained, in accordance with a predetermined priority.

21. (New) The integrated information management apparatus according to claim 20, wherein

said data base determining module includes a module for determining order of said two or more data bases as the object of maintaining consistency of said determined data, in accordance with priority represented as an order of time starting from older or newer one, of said consistency maintaining process, represented by said consistency maintaining process time information.

22. (New) The integrated information management apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising

a priority storage for storing said priority; wherein

said data base determining module includes a module for determining the order of said two or more data bases as an object with which consistency of said determined data is to be maintained, in accordance with the priority stored in said priority storage.

23. (New) The integrated information management apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising:

a communication module for communicating with apparatuses respectively storing said two or more data bases; and

a time point storage for storing a time point at which communication by said communication module becomes possible; wherein

said data base determining module includes a module for determining an order of said two or more data bases as the object with which consistency of said determined data is to be maintained, in accordance with the time point stored in said time point storage.

24. (New) The integrated information management apparatus according to claim 23, further comprising

a holding module for holding, while communicating with a first apparatus among said two or more apparatuses, a state in which communication with a second apparatus other than said first apparatus among said two or more apparatuses is possible.

25. (New) A method of performing consistency maintaining processes comprising:

storing a first data base at an integrated information management apparatus;

performing consistency maintaining processes, by replacing data of said first data base with data of a second data base different from said first data base; and

designating as data of which consistency is to be maintained between said first and second data bases, data included in said first data base and having modification time newer than the time of the last consistency maintaining process, based on consistency maintaining process time information representing time when the last consistency maintaining process was performed, and based on data modification time information corresponding to each data included in said first data base and representing time when each said data is modified.

26. (New) A method of performing consistency maintaining processes comprising:

storing a first data base at an integrated information management apparatus;

performing consistency maintaining processes among said first data base and two or more data bases different from said first data base, by replacing data of said first data base with data of said two or more data bases;

designating as data of which consistency is to be maintained among said first data base and said two or more data bases, data included in said first data base and having modification time newer than the time of the last consistency maintaining process, based on consistency maintaining process time information representing time when the last consistency maintaining process was performed, and based on data modification time information corresponding to each data included in said first data base and representing time when each said data is modified; and

determining an order of said two or more data bases as the object with which consistency of the designated data is to be maintained, in accordance with a predetermined priority.

27. (New) A computer-readable medium for storing data within a data structure, the data structure comprising:

a first data, wherein data analogous to the first data is stored on at least one counterpart device;

a second data representing time information corresponding to the first data, wherein the second data is stored for the first data and each of the analogous data at the at least one counterpart device.

28. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 27, wherein the second data stored for each of the analogous data at the at least one counterpart device is used to perform a consistency maintaining process.